

# Josie K. Vano (they/she)

Theatre Artist & Educator, Expressive Arts Therapist-in-Training

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## AWARDS

### Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

Best Show of the Season (Director)	January 2026	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
Nominee, Best Technical Contribution	January 2025	<i>Annie: The Musical</i>
Nominee, Best Featured Actress in a Musical	January 2025	<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>
Best Lead Actress in a Play	January 2024	<i>Fight Nice</i>

### Alpha Psi Omega - Kent State University

Best Production Stage Manager in a Black Box Show	May 2022	<i>Louder Than Words</i>
Best Black Box Production Overall	May 2022	<i>Louder Than Words</i>

## TEACHING

### Fairmount Center for the Arts

Chardon Homeschool STEAM Program	2025 - 2026	Theatre Instructor	Sydney Kreuzmann
Chagrin Falls Park Community Center	2025	Theatre Instructor, Summer Camp	Darlene Kelbach

### Beck Center for the Arts

Drama Social Groups	2025 - 2026	Instructor	Tracy Ammon, Sarah Heffner
Early Childhood Theatre Workshops	2025 - 2026	Instructor	Sarah Clare

### Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

Youth Summer Theatre Camp	2024 - 2026	Education Director	Sydne Nielsen
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## DIRECTING AND DEVISING

### Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

<i>Peter Pan</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2025	Education Director	Sydne Nielsen
<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	2025	Director	Eric Slayton
<i>Annie: The Musical</i>	2024	Asst. Director & Stage Manager	Austin Blair, Jason Walker
<i>Absolutely Aesop</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2024	Education Dir. & Access Coordinator	Sydne Nielsen, Austin Blair

### Kent State University

<i>Animated Hands</i> (Children's Show Pilot)	2023	ASL Consultant	Ollie Staib, Andre Correa, Elsie Kibler
<i>Epitaph</i>	2022	Director	Courtney Brown
<i>Home of the Brave: 10 Days</i>	2021	Devised/Talkback Facilitator	Christian Andrews, Alicia Cleveland

### Creative Kinnections (NJ)

<i>Arriving</i>	2020	Devised/Director	Brooke Campbell, MA, RDT-BCT, LCAT
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### Destination Imagination

Children's STEAM Challenge	2019	Assistant Director	Vivian McGarrity
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### Newton Community Theatre (IA)

Children's Theatre Workshop	2007	Assistant Director	Melinda Worthington
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## TECHNICAL

### Starcatcher Theater

<i>Louder Than Words: A New Musical</i>	2026	Production Stage Manager	Christian Andrews, Ryan Leflar
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### Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

<i>Peter Pan</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2025	Production Stage Manager	Sydne Nielsen
<i>Absolutely Aesop</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2024	Production Stage Manager	Sydne Nielsen, Austin Blair
<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>	2024	Stagehand	Melissa Nielsen, Doug Anderson

### Kent State University

<i>Omega Fantasy</i> (Drag Competition)	2023	Sound Board Operator	Alexandra Baxter, Gabby Smith
<i>Tri Sigma Night Live</i> (Variety Show)	2022	Sound Board Operator	Berit Hazleton
<i>Louder Than Words: A New Musical</i>	2022	Production Stage Manager	Christian Andrews
<i>Battle for the Wagon Heel</i> (Drag Show)	2022	Production Stage Manager	Graham Callahan
<i>KDE: No Permission Needed</i>	2022	Asst. Stage Manager, Deck Chief	Gregory King, Alexandra Baxter
<i>Dance '21: Love Stories</i>	2021	Asst. Stage Manager, Fly Operator	Jeffrey Rockland, Amanda Rearick
<i>Home of the Brave: 10 Days</i>	2021	Production Stage Manager	Christian Andrews, Alicia Cleveland

### New York University

<i>Masters' Dance Concert</i>	2009	Light Board Operator	Deborah Damast
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## PERFORMING

### Great Lakes Medieval Faire

*Lady Ophelia's Dance* 2024 - 2025 Ensemble Dancer Jeanette Walmsley

### Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

*A Year with Frog and Toad* 2024 Young Frog, Ensemble Doug Anderson, Melissa Nielsen

### Boys in the Back Productions

*My Friend Fuzzy Wuzzy* (Short Film) 2024 Mom Jonathan Koritansky

### Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

*Fight Nice* 2023 Olivia Sydne Nielsen

### Kent State University

*Animated Hands* (Children's Show Pilot) 2023 ASL Actor, Librarian Ollie Staib, Andre Correa, Elsie Kibler

*Girlfight* 2022 Alex Maia Bagusky

*Sisters* 2022 Rani Jacob Roney

*Home of the Brave: 10 Days* 2021 Mary Kile Christian Andrews, Alicia Cleveland

### Creative Kinnections (NJ)

*Arriving* 2020 Narrator Brooke Campbell, MA, RDT-BCT, LCAT

### Spectacular Party Entertainment

Interactive Children's Entertainer 2016 - 2018 Anna, Tinkerbell, Alice Chelsea Podgorny, Brandon Schossler

### Temenos Productions

Interactive Children's Entertainer 2012 - 2015 Anna, Snow White Chelsea Podgorny

### Noble Art Entertainment

Interactive Entertainer, Various Shows 2007 - 2013 Various Brook Hall, Sarah Cantrell

### Phoenix Players

Interactive Street Entertainer 2006 - 2016 Various Brook Hall, Sarah Cantrell, John Davis, Andrew Meade

### Porchlight Theatre Company (NY)

*Four Cups to Go* 2009 Jen James Webb

## TRAINING

**Lesley University (MA)** 2023 - 2027 **Master of Expressive Arts Therapy**

**Fringe Benefits (CA)** 2021-2025 **Theatre for Social Justice** Norma Bowles  
*Certificate: Devising Theatre for Social Justice* CT4CT Master Class Series  
*Trauma-Informed Practice for TSJ* Jennifer Larsh, REAT  
*Compassion without Rescuing* Erica Curtis, LMFT, ATR-BC

**Just Act Institute (PA)** 2022 **Theatre of the Oppressed: Forum Theatre Intensive** Lisa Jo Epstein

**Kent State University** 2021 - 2023 **Bachelor of Integrative Studies** Theatre and Society Concentration  
*Directing* Courtney Brown  
*Stage Management* Tom Humes  
*Theatre for Social Justice* Dr. Dan Nadon

**Creative Kinnections (NJ)** 2020 **Principles of Drama Therapy** Brooke Campbell, MA, RDT-BCT, LCAT  
*Introduction to Psychodrama* Barbara McKechnie, LPC, LCAT, RDT/BCT, TEP  
*Therapeutic Theatre* Adam D-F. Stevens, MA, RDT

**Phoenix Players** 2006 - 2016 Interactive Theatre Brook Hall, Sarah Cantrell, John Davis, Andrew Meade  
 Stage Combat Larry Rabin, Andrew Meade, Tim Podgorny

**New York University** 2008 - 2009 **Educational Theatre Program**  
*Stagecraft* Daryl Embry  
*Acting* James Webb  
*Educational Theatre* Dr. Desi Cameron

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Educational Theatre Association** 2025 - present *Pre-Professional Member*

**International Expressive Arts Therapy Association** 2023 - present *Student Member*